



**WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



# **REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

**for the year 1943**

to which is

appended the

**Report of the Sanitary Inspector.**



## STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D. Liverp., Ch.B., D.P.H. Liverp.  
(Now serving with The Royal Air Force.)

*Temporary Medical Officer of Health :*

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

H. E. GILBY, P.A.S.I., Cert. S.I.B., M. Inst. M. & Cy. E.  
Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

*Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.*

G. H. S. JONES.

(Now Serving with the Fleet Air Arm.)

L. H. DOUGHTY.

*Temporary Shorthand-Typist :*

MISS E. M. WATERSON.

*Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :*

D. HUNN.

(Now serving with the Royal Navy.)

## WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Year ending 31st December, 1943.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1943.

#### Vital Statistics.

There were 282 live births, 24 of which were illegitimate, and 11 still births, registered in 1943. The birth rate has fallen slightly to 16.68 but is still above the national figure of 16.5.

There were 233 deaths registered during the year, giving a crude death rate of 13.79, compared with a national rate of 12.1. 66% of the deaths registered were over the age of 70 and 76% were over the age of 65. Again the main causes of death were heart disease and cancer, the figures for the former showing a considerable increase. There were two deaths from puerperal causes.

There were only 7 deaths of infants under one year, 2 less than last year. All but 2 of these infants died before they were 2 weeks old and 4 of these were due to prematurity. The infant mortality rate reached a record low figure of 24.82 which is about half the national figure of 49.

#### Infectious Disease.

There has been a greater incidence of Infectious Disease during the year, mainly accounted for by an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever.

There was nothing in the nature of a big epidemic and the cases were fairly distributed over the district. The largest number in any one parish was 12 cases at Ryburgh during August and September. All the attacks were mild and no complications or deaths were reported.

Two cases of enteric fever occurred in August and were traced to a known carrier. Both cases recovered and the rest of the contacts were offered, and accepted, protective inoculation. No further cases have been notified. All possible steps have again been taken to impress upon the carrier the necessity for strict hygienic precautions.

The three cases of diphtheria consisted of an adult woman, who contracted the disease from a non-civilian on leave, and two children from outside the district who were undergoing treatment at a County Council Hostel in the area.

In December, there was a small outbreak of dysentery at Ryburgh. There were five cases in all, four children and one adult, and two of the children died. The serious nature of the infection was not suspected until the sudden and unexpected death of the first case. The next three cases occurred within three days of the decease of the first one, and were all removed at once to the Isolation Hospital for full investigation. The last case, the mother of the third one, occurred six days later and she was also removed to Hospital for treatment. No further case was discovered in spite of an exhaustive investigation of the district.



The organism responsible for the infection was finally identified as the Shiga type of dysentery bacillus, which is unknown in this country except in people who have recently been abroad. As none of these cases had been out of the country, extensive enquiries were made for any contact from overseas who might have introduced the infection into the village, but no such possible carrier could be found. Shiga dysentery being known to be endemic in Italy and North Africa, suspicion then fell on Italian Prisoners of War working on the land and easily accessible to children roaming from the village.

With the co-operation of the Army, certain gangs of prisoners were selected for examination and four of them with suspicious results of blood tests were removed for full investigation to an Army Hospital. None of these men were found to be excreting the organism during the period of investigation, but as such excretion may be intermittent, this is no absolute proof that they were not responsible for the outbreak. In a large camp of prisoners it was obviously impracticable to ask for the investigation of all of them, so the source of the infection is still a matter for conjecture.

The outbreak does, however, show how important it is in war-time to be on the look-out for rarer types of infection not usually found in this country. The probable cause, i.e. the eating of some excretally polluted food by the first child, also shows how dangerous it may be for children to accept sweets and other food from strangers.

It is interesting to note that during the investigation of about 100 cases of diarrhoea reported from Ryburgh and neighbouring parishes, a small group of cases of Flexner dysentery was discovered and three cases of food poisoning due to a Salmonella infection. A carrier of Flexner dysentery was found and treated, with satisfactory results.

There were 88 cases of Measles, twice the figure for 1942, but only 9 cases of Whooping Cough during the year.

### **Tuberculosis.**

There were 26 new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1943, compared with 28 in 1942. Fourteen of these cases were of the pulmonary type and there were 12 deaths, 5 more than in 1942.

At the end of the year there were 140 cases on the register, a decrease of three on the figures for 1942.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.**

The Council's scheme has continued to operate very satisfactorily during the year and I have pleasure in recording the continued enthusiastic co-operation of General Practitioners and District Nurses. It is largely due to their assistance that the percentage of children treated has reached a new record figure.

During the year 275 children under school age, and 155 school children received a complete course of immunisation.

The final figures at the end of December 1943, were estimated to be:—

Age 1-5 years  
67%

Age 5-15 years  
88.3%

The arrangement whereby lists of babies under five are regularly obtained from the Food Office has greatly assisted in the efficient organisation of a complete canvass of the district.

### **Contagious Disease.**

154 cases of Scabies were brought to my notice during the year, mainly through the School Nurses and General Practitioners. The facilities provided by the County Council at the Scabies Hospital at Thursford were made use of in respect of 12 cases which had proved difficult to cure under the ordinary domiciliary treatment scheme. The Hospital was closed in August and since then no cases have received In-Patient treatment.

In the majority of cases, the routine visit of the Sanitary Inspector and the issue of Benzyl Benzoate lotion have been rapidly effective in bringing about a cure.

A few cases of severe impetigo have also received hospital treatment during the year. In no case was it found necessary to take proceeding under the Scabies Order.

### **Pollution of Shellfish.**

At the end of 1942 a ban was imposed by the Fishmongers Company on all shellfish from the Wash and North West Norfolk areas in respect of their sale for human consumption at Billingsgate Market.

As this ban affected Blakeney, an investigation was made in the Spring of 1943 into the conditions obtaining in the industry there.

Numerous samples of sea-water at various stages of the tide were taken for examination as well as samples of mussels from the lays.

The results of the examination of these samples were inconclusive but no evidence of gross pollution at any stage was obtained.

On topographical grounds, the lays appear to be remote from pollution except in enormous dilution and if the mussels when gathered were dispatched direct from the boats, there appeared to be little chance of their being a danger to health.

The conditions of the trade, however, sometimes necessitate the deposit of shellfish on the hard below the quay prior to despatch, for varying periods of time. As crude sewage is at present being discharged into the Harbour at all stages of the tide, this practice is fraught with considerable danger.

With the active and willing co-operation of the fishermen, arrangements were made for the mussels to be bagged direct from the boats on all possible occasions. When such a procedure proved impracticable it was agreed that the fish be deposited for the minimum of time on a specified site, clearly indicated by buoys. This site was selected so as to ensure that the mussels were only submerged at the top of the tide when the pollution would be at its greatest dilution.

These temporary measures should greatly reduce the risk of polluted mussels being dispatched for sale.



It is confidently anticipated that the post war development of Blakeney will include a more efficient method of sewage disposal, which will ensure that the effluent is discharged where it will neither be a danger to the shellfish industry nor spoil the amenities of the Harbour.

The helpful co-operation of the fishermen has been greatly appreciated throughout these investigations.

### **General Survey.**

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year. The only epidemic of any dimensions was influenza in the Autumn. A large proportion of the population was attacked but fortunately, though the disease was marked by an acute onset followed by a period of intense prostration, recovery in the majority of cases was rapid and complete. There were few complications and the mortality was slight. Deaths from respiratory diseases show no increase on 1942, when influenza was not very prevalent.

The increase of deaths from Heart Disease, chiefly at advanced ages, suggests that the elderly in particular are feeling the strain of four years of war. Many of them, owing to the calling-up of younger members of their families, are doing work which is much too strenuous for their age.

At the other end of life, the picture is much brighter. The low infant mortality rate, the high birth rate and the decrease in the number of stillbirths all reflect the benefit of the excellent provision that has been made for infants and expectant mothers in the way of milk and supplementary foods.

The health of the child population generally has been very satisfactory and it is specially noticeable that school entrants to-day have often a physique superior to that of their elder brothers and school fellows.

The baby of this war bids fair to be a great contribution to our race and if the present high standard can be kept up in peace time then the foundation stone of positive health will be well and truly laid.

In conclusion, I should like to record my appreciation of the unfailing help and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	88,818
Registrar - General's estimate of resident population mid-1938	...	...	...	...	16,830
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to rate-books	...	...	...	...	6,400
Rateable Value (end of 1943)	...	...	...	...	£64,806
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£268

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR,

*which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.*

Live Births. Total. Males. Females.					Wals. E. & W.	
Legitimate	256	121	135	} Birth-rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	16.68	16.5
Illegitimate	26	18	8			
Total	282	139	143			
Still Births						
Legitimate	11	7	4	} Rate per 1,000 total births ...	39.01	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
Total	11	7	4			
Deaths	Total	233	117	116	Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	
					13.79	12.1

Deaths from puerperal causes:—2.

## Infant Deaths.

		Totals.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	5	4	1
Illegitimate	...	2	2	—
Totals	...	7	6	1

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	Wals. 24.82	E. & W. 49.
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## Ages at Death.

Age.		Males.	Females.	Total.
1st day	...	2	—	2
1—7 days	...	2	—	2
1—4 weeks	...	1	—	1
1—3 months	...	—	—	—
3/12—1 year	...	1	1	2
Totals	...	6	1	7

(E. & W. = England and Wales).



The causes of death are given in following table supplied by the Registrar-General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes... ..						117	116
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	3
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	1	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	5	1
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	1
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	22	19
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	11	12
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	25	38
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	4
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	9
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	4	—
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	2	1
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years)	...	...	...	...	1	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of the Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2
31	Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Mal- formations, etc.	...	...	...	...	3	1
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	—	—
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	3	2
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	19	15
36	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	...		

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	37	12	—
Diphtheria ... ..	3	3	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	11	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	60	17	—

Disease.	Under One Year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Total Cases
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	3	18	7	3	1	3	—	—	37
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	3
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	1	1	—	3	2	—	1	1	1	1	11
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	1	3	3	21	11	3	5	5	4	3	60

## MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH REGULATIONS.

The following notifications have been received:—

			Deaths.
Measles	...	...	88
Whooping Cough	...	...	9

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1943, are given in the following tables.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
25—	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	1
35—	4	—	2	1	3	1	—	—
45—	2	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	8	6	6	6	6	3	1	2

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory ... ..	47	29	76
Non-Respiratory ... ..	34	30	64
TOTALS ... ..	81	59	140



# FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES TABLES.

## I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES			
with mechanical power ...	8	2	—
without mechanical power ...	3	—	—
WORKPLACES ... ..	14	3	—
Total ... ..	25	5	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
Acommo- { unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
dation { not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse ... ..	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ... ..	5	5	—	—
Total ... ..	7	7	—	—

## WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Fifth Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1943. This is presented in abbreviated form.

The following table shows the number of inspections made for all purposes during the year:—

NATURE OF INSPECTION.	No. OF VISITS
Housing Inspections ... ..	15
Housing Re-visits ... ..	45
Inspections in connection with the Housing (Rural Workers) Act	—
Public Health Inspections ... ..	589
Public Health Revisits ... ..	287
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	606
Inspections of Slaughterhouses and Foodshops ... ..	94
Inspections of Sewers, Sewer Ditches, Sewage Works, etc. ... ..	387
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Arrangements ... ..	100
Investigations respecting Infectious and Contagious Disease ... ..	243
Rooms disinfected ... ..	51
Inspections of Public Conveniences ... ..	14
Inspections of Factories and Workshops ... ..	25
Inspections of Petroleum Stores ... ..	11
Miscellaneous visits to owners, etc. ... ..	260

#### Emergency Work.

Inspections in connection with the Civilian Deaths Scheme ...	8
Inspections in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme	23
Inspections in connection with the Salvage Scheme ... ..	94
Visits in connection with Gas Contaminated Foodstuffs ... ..	2
Visits in connection with N.F.S. Water Supplies ... ..	19

**TOTAL** 2,873

#### Housing and Public Health.

A survey of drainage arrangements in the Parish of Fakenham was commenced during the year and 488 premises were visited, street numbers being allocated to premises concurrently with this work. Details of drainage defects and the existence of conservancy types of closets were recorded in many cases, and owners were notified of these although it was appreciated that the adoption of a closet conversion scheme would probably prove impracticable at the present time in view of the increasing shortage of building materials and labour.

During the year a total of 141 letters were sent requesting attention to various matters at 361 premises, including the above, and two Statutory Notices were served in respect of inadequate water supply and housing defects at one dwellinghouse.

The following table summarises works carried out as a result of this action. No legal proceedings were necessary:—

	No. of Visits
Windows repaired or made to open ... ..	5
Floors repaired or relaid ... ..	2
Plaster to walls or ceilings repaired ... ..	7
Dampness remedied ... ..	2
Walls repaired ... ..	2
Overcrowding abated ... ..	1
Houses demolished ... ..	10
Firegrates and coppers repaired ... ..	4
House roofs repaired ... ..	6
Accumulation of refuse removed ... ..	1
Outbuildings repaired ... ..	1
Sanitary conveniences repaired or reconstructed ... ..	5
E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s ... ..	16
Lavatory basins provided and fixed ... ..	5
Baths provided and fixed ... ..	3
Pumps repaired ... ..	2
Rooms disinfested ... ..	4
Sanitary pails provided ... ..	10
Rainwater guttering and fallpipes repaired or renewed ... ..	5
Wells cleaned or repaired ... ..	5
Drains unstopped, trapped or repaired ... ..	27
New ashbins provided ... ..	7
Ditches cleansed ... ..	3
Miscellaneous items dealt with ... ..	4

### **Housing Acts—Regulation 68a of the Emergency Powers (Defence) General Regulations.**

Renewal of temporary licences for the habitation of condemned dwellinghouses were formally granted in 2 cases, and a number of other applications were pending at the end of the year.

### **Housing (Rural Workers) Act.**

No application for assistance was received during the year.

### **Cowsheds and Dairies.**

During the year 606 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies, slight improvements were made to several premises, one new cowshed and dairy was erected, and in two other instances existing premises were reconstructed so as to provide accommodation of a high standard. The attention of producers to important production details has tended to lapse and the quality of the milk has suffered accordingly, difficulties due to insufficient and unsuitable labour have all helped to pull down the standard of cleanliness. This trend further emphasises the need for a national minimum standard of cleanliness for all milk at the time of production, irrespective of whether the milk is heat treated prior to use for human consumption.

The following table summarises the entries in the Council's registers at the end of the year:—

Wholesale Producers	... 142
Retail Purveyors	... 101
Dairymen	... 6



5 Retailers of milk residing elsewhere are registered for the purpose of retailing milk within the district.

### **Biological Sampling Scheme.**

A Scheme of sampling the bulk milk supplies from the ungraded milk producers was brought into operation during the year in co-operation with the Norfolk County Council.

A total of 159 samples were obtained under this scheme, of which one was positive to the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Resultant action by the Veterinary staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries caused the elimination of 3 cows which were slaughtered at a government slaughterhouse, all were found to have generalised tuberculosis.

### **Graded Milk.**

The number of producers holding licences to produce "Accredited" milk was 42 whilst 3 producers held licences to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

109 Samples of milk were taken from "Accredited" producers premises and 29 of these failed to pass the prescribed test, three licences were temporarily suspended during the year. The average number of samples taken per producer was 2.59.

41 samples of milk for biological examination for Tuberculosis were also taken from these herds. All were negative.

### **Slaughterhouses and Foodshops.**

94 Inspections of slaughterhouses and foodshops were made, and the following carcasses were examined:—

Oxen 31. Calves 9. Sheep 51. Pigs 47.

The following were found to be diseased or otherwise unsound and were disposed of so as not to be used for the food of man:—

Beef ... 1 cow's carcass and all offal, 59 lbs. beef, 4 lbs. veal, 1 calves pluck.

Pork ... 1 Pig's carcass and all offal, 4 Pig's heads, 1 mesenteric fat.

Mutton ... 2 Sheep's carcasses and all offal.

Tinned Foods:— 108 tins milk, 26 tins fruit, 47 tins vegetables, 90 tins meat, 93 tins fish.

Other Foods:— 120 lbs. flour, 142 lbs. sugar, 24 lbs. bacon, 109 lbs. sausages, 6 lbs. raisins, 25 lbs. prunes, 16 lbs. slab cake.

Total weight of foodstuffs above mentioned 16 cwts. 22 lbs.

### **Treatment of Foodstuffs Contaminated by Poison Gas.**

Further equipment was received during the year.

### **Sewerage and Drainage, etc.**

#### **SHALLOW SEWERS.**

Shallow sewers at Hempton, Fakenham Heath, West Raynham, and Little Walsingham have been cleansed and repaired during the year. The only way of eliminating the recurrent blockages in sewers of this type is for the entire systems to be properly relaid with adequate falls, and for a simple type of sewage disposal plant to be installed where necessary in order to minimise the existing pollution of watercourses.

**SEWER DITCHES.**

Ditches at Sculthorpe were cleansed during the year, but generally speaking the position has further deteriorated owing to lack of adequate labour.

**SEWERAGE WORKS.**

**Fakenham**—The Pumping Plant and machinery has again been overhauled during the year and necessary repairs and renewals made. The engines and pumps have worked a total of 2907½ hours during this period, an average of 7 hours 58 minutes pumping per day.

The total rainfall was 19.08 inches, of which 4.11 inches fell in January.

**Melton Constable**—A slight improvement to the effluent from this works was recorded during the year, and distributing pipes in the storm bed were renewed.

**Pudding Norton**—These works were brought into operation towards the end of the year. An opportunity has been taken to abate the nuisance caused by the drainage from 22 houses which have been connected to the main sewer.

**Public Cleansing.**

Removal of house refuse and night soil is carried out in the following parishes:—Fakenham, Little Walsingham, Great Walsingham, Blakeney, Stiffkey, Great Ryburgh and Hempton, whilst there is a collection of night soil at Briston.

The Scheme in Fakenham is run by direct labour, all the remainder are in the hands of Contractors. Two contracts were terminated during the year and each was renewed at increased cost.

**Water Supplies.**

A total of 95 samples of water were taken during the year from 24 different sources of supply. These were made up as follows:—

Routine samples from public water supplies	...	56
Initial samples from private wells	... ..	23
Repeat samples from private wells	... ..	16
Sources of water supply found to be unsatisfactory...		15
Number of premises where an alternative supply was provided	... ..	17

**Fakenham and Hempton Public Water Supply.**

A sample from this source was submitted to the Public Analyst on the 19th August 1943, and his report thereon is as follows:—

Chemical Results (Grains per gallon)			
Free and Saline ammonia	... ..	nil	
Albuminoid ammonia	... ..	Trace	
Chlorine in Chlorides	... ..	2.3	
Nitrogen as Nitrates	... ..	0.14	
Nitrates	... ..	nil	

**HARDNESS.**

Temporary	20.2°
Permanent	7.0°
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.2°</b>

## Bacteriological Results.

Bacteria per c.c. on agar at 37°C. ...	6
Bacillus Coli ... ..	Absent in 100 ml.
Physical Characteristics ... ..	Bright and clear.

“This is a pure and wholesome water, though hard, and quite fit for drinking purposes. The hardness has risen since the last analysis but otherwise it is unchanged.”

The weekly bacteriological check samples have also proved satisfactory.

**Salvage.**

There has been no change in the general scheme for the collection of salvage during the year, voluntary collections continued in all parishes with the exception of Fakenham and Hempton where the work was carried out by the Scavengers. The system of monthly collections from Parish depots was continued in modified form.

The following table shows the materials dealt with during the year:—

Material	Received			Disposed of		
	tons.	cwts.	lbs.	tons.	cwts.	lbs.
Wastepaper (all grades)	102	5	72	126	17	90
Bones	6	4	1	8	13	56
Rags	2	18	7		nil	
Bottles and Jars	8	4	56		nil	
Miscellaneous Metals	11	19	89	10	8	0
Exhausted H.T. Batteries	2	4	68	20	0	0
Rubber	2	19	43	4	15	0
Sacks		12	98		nil	
Kitchen Waste (estimated)	16	0	0	16	0	0
Totals	153	8	98	186	14	34

Note: Where the stock disposed of is more than that shown as being received, the difference is accounted for by stocks previously held or by materials received at, but not actually weighed in to, the main salvage depot.

The income received during the year totalled £995 16s. 3d. being a reduction of almost £200 on the previous year, this sum was however again sufficient to render the scheme self supporting whilst further substantial payments have been made to local charities.

In February a Scheme for the collection of kitchen waste in Fakenham was successfully inaugurated, whilst in July a special Book and Salvage Drive was held with the target of 1,000,000 books for the entire County of Norfolk. During the period of the drive the Walsingham Rural District obtained 32,598 volumes towards a target of 35,000, and the target figure was exceeded during the following month when numerous additional small parcels of books were received at the depot. All the volumes were examined and allocated to various purposes by a Book Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Removal of railings, chains and gates falling within certain categories was arranged by the Ministry of Works and took place during the summer months.



### **Civilian Deaths Scheme.**

No call was made upon this service during the year.

### **Government Evacuation Scheme.**

The amount of work necessitated by the supervision of evacuees has again fallen, and the number of requisitioned properties was reduced to 16.

### **Surface Air Raid Shelters.**

Two shelters at Melton Constable were extensively repaired during the year, regular weekly cleansing of all these shelters is carried on by part-time caretakers.

### **British Restaurant, Fakenham.**

Repairs and amendments to premises known as the Old Lecture Hall, Quaker Lane, Fakenham were almost complete at the end of the year, and it was anticipated that the British Restaurant would be opened shortly.

### **Conclusion.**

Housing repair and improvement in this locality is practically static at the present time, and now only the most important jobs receive attention. On the other hand the labour difficulties attendant upon the maintenance of the schemes where direct labour is used, whilst often rendering prompt attention to these matters difficult, has nevertheless been sufficient to maintain a reasonable service during the year, but no progress was made with the cleansing of the large majority of sewer ditches which are now in an extremely unsatisfactory condition.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Food launched a campaign for the extermination of Rats and Mice in all premises except those dealt with by War Agricultural Executive Committees. The Council has accepted delegation of powers from the County Council under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and an operator has since been appointed to deal with this matter.

With regard to staff, Mr. G. H. S. Jones joined the forces in November and was replaced by Mr. L. H. Doughty.

I must again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and to the Clerk of the Council, Medical Officer of Health and other members of the staff whose continued interest and co-operation is much appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

H. E. GILBY,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.



